

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-10

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 TRSE-00 NSC-05 SSO-00

NSCE-00 /089 W

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R 161814Z JUN 77

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2207

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 314

FROM US REP MBFR

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JUNE 16 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT

THE 140TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD ON JUNE 16 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF NETHERLAND'S REP (DEVOS) WHO WAS ACTING IN PLACE OF THE ABSENT LUXEMBOURG REP (WINTER). BULGARIAN REP (DICHEV) DELIVERED THE ONLY STATEMENT. IT COMPARED THE RESPECTIVE OUTCOMES THAT WOULD RESULT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN AND THE WESTERN REDUCTION APPROACHES AND SOUGHT TO DEMONSTRATE THAT THE EASTERN APPROACH WOULD PRODUCE AN OUTCOME IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLES AGREED UPON IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS WHILE THE WESTERN APPROACH WOULD NOT. IN CRITICIZING THE MILITARY VALUE OF THE US NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS PROPOSED BY THE WEST, CONFIDENTIAL

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DICHEV IMPLIED THAT THE WEST WAS SEEKING CREDIT FOR REDUCING THE WARHEADS OF HONEST JOHN AND SERGEANT MISSILES WHICH WERE ALREADY BEING WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA. THE MAIN POINTS OF THE BULGARIAN STATEMENT, THE TEXT OF WHICH FOLLOWS BY AIRGRAM, WERE:

1. THE LACK OF PROGRESS IN THE TALKS TO DATE DESPITE THE DEEPENING OF DETENTE REPRESENTED BY THE CSCE AGREEMENT IS A SOURCE OF

DISSATISFACTION WHICH ALL PARTICIPANTS SHOULD SEEK TO RECTIFY.

2. PROGRESS WOULD CORRESPOND TO THE INTERESTS OF ALL EUROPEAN STATES, INCLUDING THOSE NOT REPRESENTED HERE.

3. THE PEOPLES OF EUROPE DEMAND THE ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT ON THE REDUCTION OF ARMED FORCES AND ARMAMENTS IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

4. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS DELIBERATELY UNDERESTIMATE THE MILITARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE EAST'S PROPOSALS WHILE ARTIFICALLY TRYING TO PROVE THAT THEIR OWN PROPOSALS ARE DICTATED BY AN INTEREST IN SIGNIFICANT MILITARY DETENTE.

5. IN COMPARING THE RESPECTIVE OUTCOMES WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN AND WESTERN PROPOSALS, THE FOLLOWING POINTS ARE NOTEWORTHY:

(A) IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLES AGREED TO IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS, THE EASTERN PROPOSALS, UNLIKE THOSE OF THE WEST, CALL FOR THE REDUCTION OF AIR FORCES, WHICH ARE HIGHLY IMPORTANT PART OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(B) THE EAST'S PROPOSED EQUAL PERCENTAGE REDUCTIONS WOULD LEAD TO LARGER REDUCTIONS THAN ADOPTION OF THE WEST'S PROPOSAL FOR COLLECTIVE CEILINGS.

(C) THE EAST WISHES TO REDUCE ARMAMENTS AND COMBAT EQUIPMENT WHILE THE WEST, CONTRARY TO THE AGREEMENT REACHED IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS, SEEKS TO REDUCE 1700 SOVIET TANKS, THE OTHER ARMA-
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MENTS OF A TANK ARMY, AND ONLY A CERTAIN QUANTITY OF US NUCLEAR WEAPONS; AND, THUS, TO UPSET THE EXISTING APPROXIMATE BALANCE OF FORCES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

(D) WHEREAS THE EAST BELIEVES THAT ALL PARTICIPANTS POSSESSING NUCLEAR WEAPONS OR DELIVERY SYSTEMS SHOULD REDUCE THEM, THE WEST OFFERS MERELY TO REDUCE CERTAIN US NUCLEAR SYSTEMS, PERHAPS INCLUDING THE WARHEADS FOR HONEST JOHN AND SERGEANT MISSILES WHICH ARE BEING WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA.

(E) THE US NUCLEAR REDUCTIONS WOULD NOT BE COMMENSURATE WITH THE REDUCTIONS OF A SOVIET TANK ARMY, ESPECIALLY AS NATO NUCLEAR FORCE MODERNIZATION STEPS WILL COMPENSATE FOR SUCH US REDUCTIONS.

(F) THE EAST WANTS ALL PARTICIPANTS TO REDUCE BY UNITS, WHILE THE WEST WANTS THE USSR TO DO SO ALONE, LEAVING THE WEST FREE TO TAKE ITS OWN REDUCTIONS BY INDIVIDUAL SERVICEMEN.

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NSCE-00 /089 W
-----170853Z 109897 /15

R 161814Z JUN 77
FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA
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SECDEF WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MBFR VIENNA 314

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(G) THE EAST, IN CONFORMITY WITH THE PRINCIPLES AGREED IN THE
PREPARATORY TALKS, BELIEVES THAT ALL DIRECT PARTICIPANTS SHOULD
UNDERTAKE INDIVIDUAL REDUCTION OBLIGATIONS WHILE THE WESTERN STATES,
OTHER THAN THE US, WILL NOT UNDERTAKE EVEN GENERAL REDUCTION COMMIT-
MENTS IN A FIRST STAGE.

(H) TO GUARANTEE THE SECURITY OF FLANK STATES, THE EASTERN APPROACH
CALLS FOR THE DISBANDMENT OF WITHDRAWN FORCES.

(I) THE WEST REFUSES TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN PROPOSAL THAT DIRECT
PARTICIPANTS AGREE NOT TO INCREASE THE NUMERICAL STRENGTH OF
THEIR ARMED FORCES FOR THE DURATION OF THE TALKS, DESPITE THE FACT
THAT SUCH A STEP WOULD ENHANCE EUROPEAN SECURITY IN ADVANCE OF A
FIRST REDUCTION AGREEMENT.

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6. THE CONCLUSION OF THIS ANALYSIS IS THAT THE WEST IS NOT OPERATING ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREED AIMS OF THE TALKS, BUT RATHER IS SEEKING UNILATERAL MILITARY ADVANTAGES FOR ITSELF.

7. THE WEST CONTINUES TO SPEAK OF AN EXISTING EASTERN NUMERICAL PREPONDERANCE IN GROUND FORCE PERSONNEL DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE OFFICIAL FIGURES SHOW A BALANCE BETWEEN THE FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES IN CENTRAL EUROPE.

8. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EASTERN PROPOSALS WOULD LEAD TO A REDUCTION IN THE MILITARY POTENTIALS OF BOTH GROUPINGS AND HENCE TO THE REDUCTION OF THE MILITARY CONFRONTATION IN CENTRAL EUROPE AND STRENGTHENING OF PEACE AND SECURITY.

9. THE BULGARIAN DELEGATION CALLS UPON THE WESTERN PARTICIPANTS TO BRING THEIR POSITIONS INTO CONFORMITY WITH AIMS AGREED UPON IN THE PREPARATORY TALKS. RESOR

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLIANCE, MEETING REPORTS, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS
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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 16-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MBFRV00314
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770216-0805
Format: TEL
From: MBFR VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770650/aaaabsbn.tel
Line Count: 187
Litigation Code IDs:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2130662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: JUNE 16 EASTERN PLENARY STATEMENT THE 140TH PLENARY MEETING OF THE MBFR NEGOTIATIONS WAS HELD ON JUNE 16 UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF NETHERLAND'S REP
TAGS: PARM, US, NATO
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9000077c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009